



(3) German Patent Application Publication No. DE 101 63 561 A1, July 17, 2003. For the Examiner's convenience, an English language abstract is attached; and

(4) U.S. Patent No. 5,353,598 (HUCK et al.), issued October 11, 1994; Applicant notes that this document is cited and discussed in the instant application beginning on page 1.

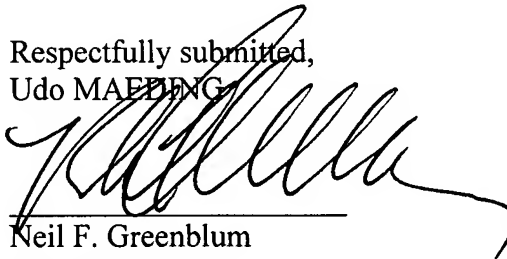
Copies of the above-listed documents (with the exception of the U.S. Patents) and the citing documents are enclosed together with a completed copy of the PTO-1449 Form listing the cited documents. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to consider these documents and to indicate such consideration by returning a signed and initialed copy of the PTO-1449 Form with the next official communication.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii) and to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(iii) if a U.S. Patent Application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. Patents are not enclosed herewith. However, if a copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicant notes that an Office Action on the merits has not yet issued in the instant application, and thus, no fee is necessary to ensure consideration of this statement. However, if an Office Action has issued and is crossing in the mail with this statement, the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0089 any fee necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted materials.

If there should be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Udo MAEPFING



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